

Yanks Prepared to Save Laos

Washington, June 18 (AP)—A high United States official says that if Red forces get the upper hand in Laos, "the only response we would have would be to put our own forces in there."

Assistant Secretary of State William P. Bundy said also: "We are going to drive the Commu-

nists out of South Viet Nam" even if that eventually involves a choice of "attacking the countries to the north."

Bundy, who handles Far Eastern affairs and is a brother of Presidential advisor McGeorge Bundy, spoke in a May 4 closed session before the House Appropriations subcommittee considering President Johnson's \$3.5 billion foreign aid request. The subcommittee made the testimony public today.

Plain of Jars Invasion

Soon after Bundy testified, North Viet Nameese-supported Pathet Lao overran the Plain of Jars of Central Laos. The United States then started escorted reconnaissance flights over Laos to keep tabs on the Red and to show its determination to stem the Communist tide.

At present the fighting has slackened and Washington is looking for diplomatic means of pressuring the Communists to roll back to their earlier positions.

U.S. officials also disclosed that some Thai pilots are flying T-28 attack planes for Laos. The State Department denied a published report, however, that the Thai pilots had bombed Communist headquarters at Khang Khay. And it said no Americans are flying the propeller-driven T-28s in Laos.

Outlines Problem

Bundy said the neutralist and right wing forces of the Laotian government could probably defeat the Communist Pathet Lao themselves.

But the problem is that "the North Viet Nameese can send in reinforcements . . . and quickly get military ascendancy," he said. "The only response we would have would be to put our own forces in there."

As for South Viet Nam, Bundy said there should be no doubt about U.S. determination to drive out the Communists. He predicted success.

Attack Decision

"We are trying to do that without attacking the countries to the north with all the problems that involves. If it comes to that, we will have to face that choice," he said.

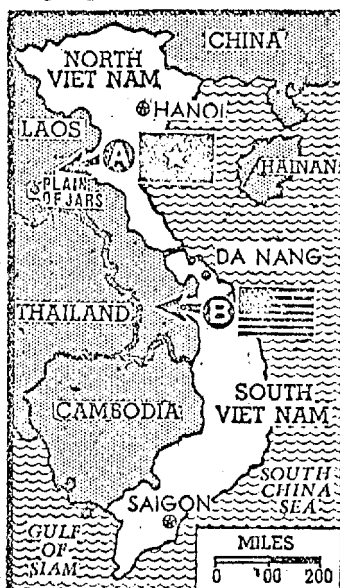
Bundy said Red China is supplying only a limited amount of equipment to North Viet Nam. He reported that North Nam's basic equipment is arms captured from the French during the Indochina war which ended 10 years ago.

He stated also that the Soviets have continued to send military aid to Communist North Korea, whereas the Chinese have not.

Key Support Point

The head of the State Department's task force on Viet Nam, William H. Sullivan, named North Viet Nam as the prime support for the Reds in neighboring countries. He said the Hanoi regime is out to bring the former Indochina states under its rule.

In a Cleveland speech, Sullivan estimated some 30,000 hardcore guerrillas in South Viet Nam were trained in the north. He said an additional 60,000 to 80,000 local recruits help them in their terror campaign.



Entry of North Viet Nameese reinforcements (A) could spark move of U.S. troops (B) into Laos.